AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly for removably interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

~~A male~~ a male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

~~An~~ an adapter including a first receptacle for removably receiving the male connector inserted edge-first into the first receptacle, and a second receptacle for removably receiving the second conductors in position for engaging the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member;

the male body member having a thickness dimension defined by a maximum separation distance between portions of the flat flexible circuit extending along opposing sides of the male body member when the flexible circuit is wrapped about the edge, the male body member also having a dimension extending along a direction of insertion of the edge into the first receptacle, the dimension extending along the direction of insertion being substantially greater than the thickness dimension for resisting deflection of the edge in a direction opposite the direction of insertion during engagement between the first conductors and the second conductors.

26. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 25, including a relatively yieldable backing structure on the male body member at the edge thereof beneath the flexible circuit for resiliently biasing the first conductors of the circuit against the second conductors.

27. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 26 wherein said male body member is elongated and said yieldable backing structure comprises a longitudinal resilient strip along said edge.

28. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 25, including positioning means on the male body member for locating the flexible circuit wrapped about said edge of the body member.

29. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 28 wherein said positioning means comprises an adhesive between the male body member and the flexible circuit.

30. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 25, including a second flat flexible circuit inserted into the first opening of the second receptacle of the adapter, the second flexible circuit having said second conductors engageable with said first conductors.

31. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 25, including a plurality of discrete electrical wires inserted into the second opening of the second receptacle of the adapter, the discrete wires having said second conductors engageable with the first conductors of the flexible circuit.

32. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly for interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

a male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

a female connecting device including a receptacle for receiving the male connector inserted into the receptacle and means on the device for removably positioning said second conductors from exteriorly of the device in engagement with the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member;

the edge about which the flat flexible circuit is wrapped having a length dimension, the male body member having a dimension extending along a direction of insertion of the edge into the receptacle, the dimension of the male body member extending along the direction of insertion being at least equal of the edge length dimension.

33. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 32, including a relatively yieldable backing structure on the male body member at the edge thereof beneath the flexible circuit for resiliently biasing the first conductors of the circuit against the second conductors.

34. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 33 wherein said male body member is elongated and said yieldable backing structure comprises a longitudinal resilient strip along said edge.

35. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 32, including positioning means on the male body member for locating the flexible circuit wrapped about said edge of the body member.

36. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim 35 wherein said positioning means comprises ~~and~~ an adhesive on the male body member adhering the flexible circuit thereto.

37. (Previously Presented) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 32, including a second flat flexible circuit inserted into the receptacle of the female connecting device, the second flexible circuit having said second conductors engageable with said first conductors.

38. (Previously Presented) In combination with the connector assembly of claim 32, including a plurality of discrete electrical wires inserted into the receptacle of the female connecting device, the discrete electrical wires having said second conductors engageable with the first conductors of the flexible circuit.

39. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 25 wherein the edge about which the flat flexible circuit is wrapped has a length dimension and the dimension of the male body member extending along the direction of the insertion is at least equal to the length dimension.

40. (Previously Presented) The connector assembly of claim 39 wherein the length dimension of the edge is substantially greater than the thickness dimension of the male body member.

41. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of claim 32 wherein the male body member further includes a thickness dimension defined by a maximum separation distance between portions of the flat flexible circuit extending along opposing sides of the

male body member when the flexible circuit is wrapped about the edge, and the length dimension of the edge is substantially greater than the thickness dimension.

42. (New) A connector assembly for interconnecting first conductors of a flat flexible circuit to a plurality of second conductors without the use of conductive terminals, comprising:

a male connector including a relatively rigid male body member having an edge about which the flexible circuit is wrapped with the first conductors of the circuit facing away from the body member at the edge thereof; and

a female connecting device including a receptacle for receiving the male connector inserted into the receptacle, and an opening in the device communicating the receptacle with an outside of the device and remaining open after assembly for removably positioning said second conductors from exteriorly of the device in engagement with the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member.

43. (New) The connector assembly of claim 42 wherein said opening is a first opening, and the female connecting device includes a second opening remote from the first opening and at a different orientation therefrom for removably receiving the second conductors in two different directions for engaging the first conductors of the flexible circuit at the edge of the male body member.